

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 22, 2008. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1 and 4-6 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claim 1 is being amended. Claims 7-22 stand withdrawn from consideration in this application. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein, including at least Figs. 5, 9 and 12, along with their corresponding descriptions in the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 5, and 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,752,118 to Johnson. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson '118 in view of US Patent No. 5,518,956 to Liu et al. Applicants have reviewed the above-outlined rejections and hereby respectfully traverse.

The present invention as set forth in claim is directed to a display device forming a display region where a plurality of films including an insulation film, a semiconductor film and a conductive film are patterned in a given pattern and stacked on a substrate, wherein at a point of time that at least one correction portion out of a correction portion which separates a short-circuit defect, a correction portion which connects an opening defect, a correction portion which removes a standard deviation defect, and a correction portion which separates a standard deviation defect of the pattern is corrected, at least one upper-layer film is formed above a film to be corrected at the correction portion and overlaps the correction portion. The correction is applied to the film to be corrected while the upper-layer film remains at a region which overlaps the correction portion without using the upper-layer film as a material for the correction, and the correction of the correction portion is performed by the irradiation of a laser beam through the at least one upper-layer film from a side of the at least one upper-layer film opposite the substrate and not through a substrate.

In a display device as recited in claim 1, at least one upper-layer film is formed above a film to be corrected at the correction portion and overlaps the correction portion. The correction is applied to the film to be corrected while the upper-layer film remains at a region which overlaps the correction portion. As illustrated in any of Figs. 5, 9 and 12, for example, a short circuit defect DF, which is the collection portion, is removed while leaving the insulation film PAS intact, which overlaps the portion in which the short circuit defect DF existed. (See for example page 19, line 13-17 of the specification).

In contrast, Johnson '118 merely discloses that a break 176 in a circuit line is repaired by applying radiant energy (laser beam) to switch phase-change material 182 (upper-layer film) which bridges the break in the circuit line to a more conductive state portion 188 (Figs. 16-17 and col. 13-14). More importantly, Johnson '118 discloses that the upper-layer film (the phase-change material 182 and the more conductive state portion 188) is used as a material for the correction.

Johnson '118 thus fails to disclose “the correction is applied to the film to be corrected while the upper-layer film remains at a region which overlaps the correction portion without using the upper-layer film as a material for the correction” as recited in claim 1. As a result, the present invention as claimed is not anticipated by Johnson. Further, since claims 5-6 depend from claim 1, these claims are also not anticipated by Johnson.

The secondary reference of Liu '956 was only cited for showing features recited in claim 4. Liu '956 fails to disclose, teach or suggest any structure or operation that makes up for the deficiencies in Johnson '118 such that their combination could render the present invention obvious to one of skill in the art. Rather, even if the references were combined, these references together would still fall short of disclosing or suggesting that “the correction is applied to the film to be corrected while the upper-layer film remains at a region which overlaps the correction portion without using the upper-layer film as a material for the correction” as recited in claim 1. Thus, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable and thereby allowable over Johnson '118 and Liu '956.

Conclusion

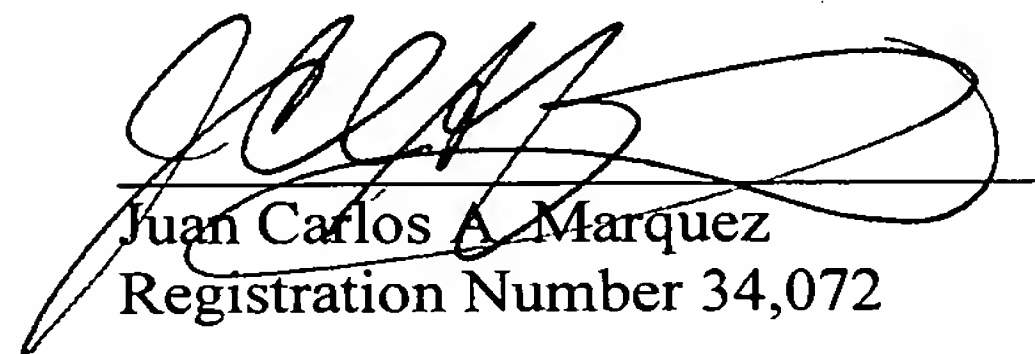
In view of all the above, Applicant respectfully submits that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor

rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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